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Pakistan's Predictions That It Can Operate the Karachi Nuclear Reactor Without Canadian Assistance is Overly Optimistic: In a January 3 televised news conference, Aziz Ahmed, the Pakistani Minister of State for Defense and Foreign Affairs, announced Canada's recent decision to terminate its nuclear cooperation with Pakistan. Ahmed predicted that Pakistan will keep the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) reactor operating. He foresaw no difficulty in acquiring fuel from non-Canadian sources and said that, with the exception of a few parts that should last the lifetime of the reactor, most spare parts will be readily available from other countries or are manufactured in Pakistan. [redacted]

[redacted] The Pakistani minister's analysis of Pakistan's ability to continue operating KANUPP without Canadian assistance is overly optimistic. His confidence on the fuel supply issue, however, is justified since Pakistan has about a 15-month supply of KANUPP fuel rods in the country and is negotiating with Niger for the purchase of uranium to be used as fuel in the future.

A substitute for Canadian spare parts will be more difficult to secure. [redacted]

West Germany is the only country other than Canada to export a heavy water power reactor, but, since their design is drastically different from the CANDU reactor design, West Germany probably could not supply many parts. Of the few countries operating heavy water power reactors, some would probably be unwilling to sell parts to Pakistan (e.g. India) and others (e.g. Argentina) would have few spare parts to sell. [redacted]

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